Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and the Ministry of Environment and Forest who will ensure that there is no adverse impact on the environment.

World Bank Loan for Development of Atomic Energy

447. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank approved a loan of Rs. 40 crores dollars for development of Atomic Energy; and

(b) whether Government propose to start new project with this aid, if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Future of Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant

448. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that even after spending Rs. 500 crores in the Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant, it is still not progressing satisfactorily and is behind schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to complete the project early, and the time schedule fixed for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) No, Sir. The progress of the project consisting of two units of 220MWe each is satisfactory and is as per schedule.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The project is progressing as per schedule. The first unit is expected to achieve criticality in June 1996 and the second unit in December, 19%.

Supply of Nuclear Fuel to Tarapur Atomic Power Station

449. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA is contemplating to use Tarapur Atomic Power Station as a lever to get India sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) by threating to stop fuel supply to Tarapur Station;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take to ensure that Tarapur Station from being closed down in the absence of foreign fuel supply to it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) The United State of America stopped the fuel supply to Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) in 1980, when the last consignment of fuel for TAPS from them was received.

In 1983 a contract was concluded with the French Government for supply of Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) for a period of 10 years for TAPS. The French have already supplied all the fuel under this contract. As for future supply of LEU for TAPS by France, they had indicated sometime back, that it would be on the condition of India accepting full scope International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguards.

In the absence of LEU, TAPS could be operated Mixed Uranium Plutonium (MOX) fuel for which the technology has been developed indigenously. It is also possible to consider operating TAPS using indigenously produced LEU, for which the requisite technology is available.

Fire in the Narora Nuclear Power Plant

450. DR JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Inquiry Committee set up to investigate the Narora Nuclear Power Plant fire incident of March 31,1993, has submitted two separate reports assigning different reasons for the fire;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

(c) what is the evaluation of Government in this regard; and

(d) what action Government propose to take on these reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) There were two inquiry Committees set

up to investigate Natora fire incident of 31-3-93—one by the Nuclear Power Corpora-lion and the other by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board—and they have both identified the same initiating event viz. the turbine blade failure, as the cause of the fire. The Narora Unit-I affected by the fire is being rehabilitated keeping in view the recommendations of the Committees. To prevent recurrence of such fires the Low Pressure Turbine Generators of the other Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors operating in the country are also being inspected one by one to ensure that the turbine blades are in good shape and to effect any improvements that may be necessary. The First Unit of Madras Atomic Power Station will be taken up first for such inspection which may take 3 to 4 weeks. The Second Unit of Madras and the First Unit of Kakrapar Atomic Power Stations shall be taken up later based on the results of the Madras Atomic Power Station-I inspection.

Capacity Utilisation in Fertilizer Plants

451. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the capacity utilisation in fertilizer plants, separately for public sector, private sector and co-operative sector during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for low capacity utilisation in the Public Sector, Plants; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the performance of these plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FER TILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The details of the capacity utilisation of public, co-operative and private sector fertilizer
plants separately during the last three yeai*s* are
given below: (Capacity utilisation %)

Nutrient/Sector	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Nitrogen			
(i) Public	66.3	69.0	69.1
(ii) Co-operative	112.4	112.2	111.3
(iii) Private	105.0	108.8	106.7
Phosphates			
(i) Public	62.4	92.4	82.9
(ii) Co-operative	75.4	113.2	99.7
(iii) Private	80.3	89.5	78.6

(b) The capacity utilisation in the public sector plants, particularly in the nitrogenous plants, has been comparatively low mainly due to low production in the plants of two sick companies, namely the Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) and the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC), on account of design deficiencies, ageing of the plants, power problems, equipment breakdowns, liquidity problem etc. Besides, the coal based technology tried for the first time in two of the plants of FCI has not been successful. Shortage of raw materials also affected the performance of some of the plants.

(c) Some of the steps taken/being taken are:

(i) Captive power plants have been installed in all the units of HFC and Talcher unit of FCI;

(ii) Assistance is being provided in arranging raw materials; and

(iii) Financial assistance is also being provided for replacement/renewal of problematic equipments in the plants of the sick companies.

DAP Industry

452 SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP) fertilizer industry is on the verge of closure after decanalisation of imports have become cheaper; and

(b) if so, the measure Government propose to take to save the industry?

•THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Due to increased Rupee cost of imported raw materials following unification of exchange rate, which increased their cost of production, as also due to low price of imported DAP, six out often DAP units in the country had suspended production from March, 1993 onwards. However, four such units have since resumed production.

(b) Government of India has recently announced a concession of Rs. 1000/- per tonne on the sale of indigenous DAP *to* the fanners. This has enabled the DAP units to resume production.